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FRETILIN'S SPEECH AT THE CONFERENCE IN LISBON

20th May 1979

Mr. President of the organising Committee,

Dear guests

Dear Comrades,friends and compagnions in struggle

We wish to begin by greeting and praising the organizing committee of this Conference as well as the CIDAC and the Portugal-East Timor Friendship association, for having organised this day of solidarity with the struggle of our people.

We greet all friendly organizations,portuguese and foreign personalities who have given their support and participate in this Conference.

To the representatives of FRELIMO and MPLA whose countries have suffered constant attacks by the armed forces of opression and racism,particularly in Southern Africa,we manifest our deepest regards and consideration.

We also greet all Supporting Committees here present,the anti-fascist and demoeratic organisations who struggle with us for the transformation of South East Asia and Asia itself into an area free of opression and exploration.

Dear friends and comrades,

Five years ago we founded the Timor Nationalist Organisation ASDT (Timorese Social-Democratic Association).They have been five years of great sacrifice and deprivation.Five years of deepest transformations.In short,five years of struggle.With an initial nucleus of eleven members,it grew rapidly and later,on September 11th 1974,was transformed into the FRETILIN,national liberation movement, which harbours all timorese nationalists irrespective of creed or political ideology.At the end of four months it already counted eight thousand members in its ranks.But that was only the start.Nothing extraordinary happened;for when FRETILIN adopted and defended the right to Independence for East Timor,this coincided with the deepest aspirations of the Mauber People in East Timor,for the right to be free,the wish for independence is born with the people and is daily kindled in its heart,as would have said our comrade Nicolau dos Reis Lobato, President of FRETILIN and the Democratic Republic of East Timor,recently killed in combat in the mountainous regions of the centre-south sector of East Timor. Nicolau Lobato gave his blood for the Freedom of our people.He has therefore turned into a live symbol of our struggle for National Liberation.Nicolau Lobato prominent foundation member of ASDT/FRETILIN always fought for the identification of FRETILIN with the real interests of the Timorese People. Because there was total identity between FRETILIN and the most explored layers of our People,FRETILIN won the support and strength of the greater part of the population of East Timor.We have demonstrated our force countless times.In the Regional Elections which it was still possible to hold the Portuguese Administration,the candidats presented by FRETILIN obtained more than eighty

per cent of the votes in Lospalos and other areas.If there had been more elections,we are sure that FRETILIN would have obtained overwhelming support for its political programme and action.The support and sympathy which the people have procured us,caused a wave of protest and provocative action from the internal and external reactionaries.Newspapers and the Radio in Jakarta started to speak of the danger of communism in East Timor.The puppet and non-expressive organisations immediately repeated this propaganda.In good time FRETILIN learnt to distinguish those who were evil-minded in their criticism from those who were not properly informed.We clearly defined and limited the enemy's field from ours,in order to fight for the UNITY of all Timorese Patriots against those who defended integration with Indonesia.

In correspondence with the interests of the Timorese Population we merged with the UDT with the principal objective of fighting against integration. But the merger did not last long.The opponents of Independence,the expansionist indonesian generals Moertapo,Murdani and others,under the direction of Suharto advised against the coalition.When the UDT received these orders it unilaterally and without ground broke up the merger.This deplorable fact did not weaken our organisation.Some of the Maubere Nationalists who belonged to the ex-UDT broke off with its oportunistic and exceeded direction and joined the nationalist movement FRETILIN.We once more consolidated our position and support.

It is therefore understandable that in only a few weeks after the break out of the UDT/Indonesia/Apodeti "coup" on August 11th 1975,following a generalised couter-offensive,we defeated and imprisoned the Vice-President of UDT and other members of its Central Committee and the overwhelming majority of the members of the integrationist and puppet direction of the APODETI.This was the first phase in the War of National Liberation.After the "coupists" had been expelled from the Territory,FRETILIN assumed total control over the whole country with exception to the island of Atauro and Oe-Cussi.Inspite of this,FRETILIN recognised Portugal as the administrating power and as a valid interlocutor in the process of decolonisation.However where were the representatives of the Central Government? In the dark of the night they left Dili,the capital of East Timor to take refuge in the island of Atauro.Several Times,we urged the Portuguese Government to take on the exercise of sovereignty over all parts of the territory.With our cousent the portuguese banner still waved over the Palace of the offices and elsewhere.We wanted the transfer of powers to take place without great agitation,negotiating with the Portuguese Government.

Unwilling to comply with its defeat,Indonesia infiltrated its regular troops in order to sabotage the peace and freedom we had conquered.The indonesian troops,under cover of UDT/APODETI,started their invasion across the border.We mobilised our cadres and the People to defend the territory.We launched appeals to the international community to denounce the Indonesian intervation.

Solidarity with our organisation and people was starting to be felt.Some parties and friendly countries mede known to FRETILIN their condemnation of Indonesia's position.The Portuguese Government was sceptical in relation to the news of Indrnesian regular troops'direct participation.Although we had for some time trusted the possibility of the Portuguese Government reassuming the administration of the territory during a period of transition,our hopes vanished when we realised its incorrect positions during the Process of Decolonisation. Given the passivity of the Administrating Power in the defence of the territory,there was only one step to take:before the People and the International Community,to assume tottaly and completely the command of the destiny of East Timor. We unilatrally proclaimed our Independence.We founded the Democratic Republic of East Timor,Sovereign,Independent and Non-aligned.A few weeks later,about 14 countries had officially recognised the Republic and the Government we had established.Various political organisations from all continents sent us messages of sympathy and support for our cause.

However,the expansionist invasor Indonesia,fearing total recognition,increased its military effectives at the border and neighbouring islands.We worked hard do widen our support.We strenghth strengthened our ties with allied countries and organisations namely with the Popular Republic of Mozambique,Guine-Bissau, Angola,Cape Verde and S.Tome and Principe.In the FRELIMO,PAIGC,MPLA and MLSTP, FRETILIN found secure and strong allies.Among the Non-aligned,in the United Nations,these countries and organisations have always courageously denounced and condemned the indonesian military agression.

In the geographical area where we are situated we must mention the dedication and unhesitating support of the Chinese Communist Party and the Government of the Popular Republic of China.We have noted with satisfaction the efforts made by Democratic Korea,Kampuchea,Laos and Vietnam in support of our struggle.We do not doubt that the direction of our struggle is identical to that of Indochina.Our combat is anti-imperialist and anti-expansionist.

Also in Asia we have found solidarity among several organisations in Indonesia, Thailand,Philippines,Malasia,Burma and others.

In Africa,beside Mozambique,Angola,Guine-Bissau,Cape Verde,S.Tome and Principe, delegations from FRETILIN and the Government have visited and found support in the Popular Republic of Benin,Tanzania,Popular Republic of Congo,Popular and Democratic Republic of Algeria,Republic of Democratic Sahara,Zambia,Senegal, Libya and Democratic Yemen,We found in Africa the greatest number of countries who support us.The greatest number majority of African Countries support us in the United Nations and in the Non-aligned.

In Latin America we have found support in Cuba,Guianes,Mexico,Trindad Tobago and others.We also wish to refer Brasil who has supported us in the United Nations.

In the Indian Ocean we have the support of the Governments of Madagascar and Seychelles.
In relation to the Socialist Countries of East Europe,traditional allies of the liberation movements,they have done almost nothing in respect to our struggle, except voting for us in the United Nations.We await better days in our relationship with the Socialist Europe.
In Europe,the only country to recognise the Democratic Republic of East Timor was Socialist Albania.Also in Europe,the Communist Parties of Italy,France, Sweden and others have taken a most positive stance in relation to our struggle against the invaders.We also do not lack support among the Socialist and Social--Democratic Parties in Europe,specially from the Swedish Social-Democrats and the French Socialists,among others.
In the Pacific,the struggle of the Maubere People in East Timor has become a symbol for all those who fight for Independence and Freedom.
In Australia we have found support in the Communist Party of Australia and the Australian Labour Party.
As our struggle advances we have found more and greater support.In the International tribunes,a greater number of world personalities join their voices to ours.We make special reference to the speeches of Professor Chomsky and Australian Member of Parliament Ken Fry in the United Nations.
In some parts of Europe and in other continents the Solidarity Movement has started to gain new force and dimension.Progressive elements in countries such as France,Great Britain,Germany,Sweden,United States have formed Support Committees and Solidarity Organisations.
In Portugal,we have noted with gay,the foundation of the Portugal-East Timor Friendship Association and CIDAC's engagement in the support of FRETILIN and Democratic Republic of East Timor.
In the democratic Portugal reborn after April 25th,we shall now undertake organised action with the political parties with seats in the Assembly of the Republic or otherwise,to obtain,from the Portuguese Government,a redefinition of its position in relation to the Democratic Republic of East Timor we have proclaimed.We believe that common sense and political realism will force the Government of this country to recognise FRETILIN and our Republic.We will undertake all efforts so that the Portuguese Government may define its position without ambiguity.For a long time now,Portugal has stopped exercising its sovereignty over Territory of East Timor.There exists a Country,a Republic which we have established as a real existence,has control over a great part of the territory and is recognised by several countries and political organisations.
That is why the recognition of FRETILIN and the Republic must doubtless be de-

manded by all those who have followed our history,demanded by FRETILIN and, we believe,also by all Parties and Personalities who trust in the still live ideals of April 25th.

The fight goes on and victory is certain!

Lisbon May 20th 1979

(José Luis Guterres)